

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08398 231333Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 AID-05 XMB-02 FRB-03 FTC-01

JUSE-00 IGA-01 ISO-00 /091 W
----- 048522

R 231205Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6044

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL ALEXANDRIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRD, EINV, EGEN

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT: CAIRO MEETING

1. OBSERVERS ANTICIPATE 38TH CONFERENCE ON ARAB
BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL, WHICH OPENED AUGUST 23 IN
CAIRO, WILL PROBABLY BE STORMY AND MAY MARK SIGNIFI-
CANT DEPARTURE FROM PAST PRACTICE IN BOTH FORM AND
SUBSTANCE.

2. RECOGNITION OF POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS
ON ARABS THEMSELVES OF BLACKLISTING IS INDICATED
BY RECENT SYRIAN LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES FOR
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 08398 231333Z

REMOVAL FROM BOYCOTT LIST, AS FAR AS SYRIA IS

CONCERNED, OF COMPANIES INVESTING IN ARAB STATES UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. SIMILAR MEASURES HAVE AT LEAST BEEN CONSIDERED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE SEEKING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS AS MEANS OF COPING WITH PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND SUBJECT WILL BE CONTROVERSIAL DISCUSSION TOPIC.

3. BOYCOTT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY PROMINENT ISSUE IN US AND WESTERN EUROPE, AND PUBLICITY EVIDENTLY LEADS MANY ARABS TO BELIEVE IN ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT ON ISRAELI ECONOMY. THIS ATTITUDE WILL TEND TO STIFFEN OPPOSITION TO LIBERALIZATION OF TYPE INSTITUTED BY SYRIA, AND RUMORED TO BE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY EGYPT, WHICH WILL CERTAINLY BE CRITICIZED BY MORE RADICAL ARAB STATES.

4. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE WILL BE STAND TAKEN BY SAUDI ARABIA, A FANATIC SUPPORTER OF BOYCOTT UNDER FEISAL, AND AT SAME TIME MAJOR SOURCE OF ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR LESS AFFLUENT ARAB STATES. EGYPT, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD ILL AFFORD TO ANTAGONIZE SAUDIS ON ISSUE OF RELATIVELY MINOR SIGNIFICANCE SUCH AS BOYCOTT. SAUDI EMBASSY HERE REPORTS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN ATTITUDE UNDER KHALID INsofar as is known.

5. NEED FOR AT LEAST FACADE OF ARAB SOLIDARITY AT THIS JUNCTURE MAY NECESSITATE MAINTENANCE OF SOLID PUBLIC BOYCOTT POSITION, WHILE IGNORING STEPS TAKEN BY INDIVIDUAL STATES TO SERVE, AT SAME TIME, THEIR OWN BEST INTERESTS AND THOSE OF ARAB NATION BY ACCEPTING PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENTS REGARDLESS OF BOYCOTT STATUS OF COMPANIES INVOLVED. BENEFITS SHOULD BE EVIDENT EVEN TO HARD-LINERS, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE UNWILLING TO ADMIT IT OPENLY AND MAY EVEN FEEL COMPELLED TO OPPOSE ANY LOOSENING OF RESTRICTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, IT CAN BE PREDICTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES AT LEAST WILL FOLLOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 08398 231333Z

SYRIAN LEAD, ALTHOUGHT PERHAPS LESS
DRAMATICALLY AND IN LESS PUBLIC A MANNER.

EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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